

urged further cooperation in addressing protracted problems of armed groups, the humanitarian situation, including Ebola, and socioeconomic development.⁶⁴ With respect to Burundi, at the meeting in March,⁶⁵ the representative of the United Kingdom called on international partners to continue supporting the East African Community in its efforts to end the political crisis in Burundi and preserve the Arusha Peace and

Reconciliation Agreement. He also encouraged all stakeholders to consider whether the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework could play an enhanced role in promoting dialogue in Burundi. At the meeting in October,⁶⁶ the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom expressed concern about the restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression; they also emphasized the importance of good governance, a point that was echoed by Germany.

⁶⁴ See [S/PV.8491](#) (Russian Federation and Kuwait); and [S/PV.8630](#) (China, Indonesia and Russian Federation).

⁶⁵ See [S/PV.8491](#).

⁶⁶ See [S/PV.8630](#).

Meetings: the situation in the Great Lakes region

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8491 26 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2019/229)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8630 3 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2019/783)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees	

5. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Council held seven meetings and adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three meetings were convened to adopt a decision of

the Council and four took the form of briefings.⁶⁷ The Council also met twice with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of

⁶⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II., sect. I.

the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).⁶⁸ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

The Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO. In her four briefings to the Council, the Special Representative outlined the ongoing democratic process, including the progress made with regard to the reform agendas of the President, Félix Tshilombo Tshisekedi, and the remaining security challenges, in particular in the country's eastern region, which was also affected by the Ebola epidemic.⁶⁹ Other briefers included the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, the President of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo and the Executive Director of a civil society organization, Afia Mama. In addition, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In 2019, the briefings and deliberations of the Council were focused mainly on the progress of the Government's democratic process following the presidential election held in December 2018, the transition strategy of MONUSCO in the context of the volatile security and humanitarian situations and the efforts of the regional organizations to strengthen the cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region.

Concerning the democratic process following the election, Council members welcomed the smooth transition of power and President Tshisekedi's pledges to build democracy and the rule of law, while also expressing concern over the ongoing violence, the Ebola outbreak and the precarious humanitarian situation in the country. During the meetings on 11 January and 18 March, Council members also noted

the postponement of elections in Beni, Butembo and Yumbi and called for the successful facilitation of the holding of the remaining elections in those areas, which had been scheduled to be held at the end March 2019.⁷⁰

On the security situation, Council members expressed concerns regarding the continuing violence and attacks against civilians and MONUSCO and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Allied Democratic Forces, while strongly condemning the attacks by armed groups on Ebola response teams.⁷¹ In that context, Council members discussed the adjustment of the configuration of MONUSCO and its activities in line with the Mission's priority mandates in the protection of civilians; Council members also encouraged the strengthening of the implementation of the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷² In particular, the representative of the United States encouraged the transition to a civilian life for fighters rather than simply absorbing them into the armed forces, and the representative of Poland emphasized that the process had to be at the centre of the stabilization of the security situation in the country.⁷³

On the efforts of the regional organizations to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region, Council members expressed support for the work done by the observation missions dispatched by such regional organizations as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union to monitor the elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Speakers also recognized the mediation efforts undertaken by regional organizations in support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.

In addition, in 2019, the Council focused on the work of the Committee pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#). On 7 June 2019, the members of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted, for the Council's attention, the final report

⁶⁸ Held on 14 March and 3 December 2019, under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police- contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B"; see [S/PV.8483](#) and [S/PV.8677](#).

⁶⁹ The humanitarian situation caused by renewed cases of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was also considered by the Council under the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", under which the Council issued a presidential statement on 2 August, in which it expressed concern and emphasized the need for continued cooperation and coordination to address the Ebola outbreak ([S/PRST/2019/6](#), first and fourth paragraphs). For more information on that item, see part I, sect. 11.

⁷⁰ See [S/PV.8443](#) (Belgium, United States and Peru); and [S/PV.8486](#) (Belgium, Poland, Dominican Republic and Peru).

⁷¹ See [S/PV.8584](#) (France, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and United Kingdom).

⁷² See [S/PV.8486](#) (Dominican Republic); and [S/PV.8584](#) (United States, Poland and Côte d'Ivoire).

⁷³ See [S/PV.8584](#).

of the Group,⁷⁴ in which it concluded that, despite the relatively peaceful transfer of power and the growing number of armed groups willing to surrender, numerous local and foreign armed groups, in particular the Allied Democratic Forces, continued to pose a serious security threat. On 26 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the sanctions measures until 1 July 2020 and the mandate of the Group of Experts until 1 August 2020.⁷⁵ On 24 July 2019,⁷⁶ the Council heard the briefing of the Chair of the Committee, in which he focused on the Committee's activities over the previous 12 months and on his visit to the country from 27 April to 6 May 2019. He also highlighted the positive public statements made by the incoming President on the work of MONUSCO and the international community. The Chair stated that he planned to "capitalize on the momentum" of his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo by continuing to build channels of communication with relevant States and promoting a better understanding of the Committee's work.

Concerning MONUSCO, the Council unanimously adopted two resolutions, by each of which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it extended the mandate of the Mission. On 29 March 2019, in resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of MONUSCO and the Intervention Brigade for nine months, until 20 December 2019, and expressed its intention to further adjust the mandate of MONUSCO following the publication of an independent strategic review of the Mission, aimed at assessing the continued challenges to peace and security in the country and articulating a phased, progressive and comprehensive exit strategy.⁷⁷ The Council decided that the strategic priorities of MONUSCO were to contribute to: (a) the protection of civilians and (b) support for the stabilization and strengthening of State institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and key governance and

security reforms.⁷⁸ The Council authorized MONUSCO, in pursuit of its mandated tasks, to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate and requested the Secretary-General to immediately inform the Council should MONUSCO fail to do so.⁷⁹ The Council also emphasized the importance of maintaining international support and engagement to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully to an end, and requested all relevant parts of the United Nations system to continue their work in response to the outbreak, noting the positive role of MONUSCO in that regard.⁸⁰ On 19 December, in resolution [2502 \(2019\)](#), the Council again extended the mandate of MONUSCO and the Intervention Brigade for one year, maintaining the same strategic priorities.⁸¹ In the resolution, the Council also stressed the importance of a comprehensive dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO on the progress of the political and security reform agenda, requested the Secretary-General to engage with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to articulate a joint strategy and identify a set of measurable benchmarks, to be proposed to the Council no later than 20 October 2020, that would allow for a progressive transfer of the Mission's tasks to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations country team and other stakeholders.⁸² The Council also took note of the assessment stemming from the independent strategic review that an "absolute minimum" transition period of three years was required before the Mission's exit, adding that the tentative timeline would have to remain flexible and take into account the security situation.⁸³

⁷⁴ See [S/2019/469](#).

⁷⁵ Resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1 and 3.

⁷⁶ See [S/PV.8584](#).

⁷⁷ Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), paras. 21 and 45.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 23. For more information concerning the current mandate of MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I. For information on past mandates of MONUSCO, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2010–2011, Supplement 2012–2013, Supplement 2014–2015, Supplement 2016–2017 and Supplement 2018*.

⁷⁹ Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), para. 28. For more information concerning the decisions of the Council relating to Article 42 of the Charter during the period under review, see part VII, sect. IV.A.

⁸⁰ Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), para. 38.

⁸¹ Resolution [2502 \(2019\)](#), paras. 22 and 24.

⁸² *Ibid.*, para. 49.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, para. 46.

Meetings: the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8443 11 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (S/2019/6)		Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, President of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, President of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo	All Council Members, all invitees ^{a,b}	
S/PV.8486 18 March 2019	Letter dated 15 February 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/159) Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2019/218)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of Afia Mama	All Council Members, all invitees ^c	
S/PV.8498 29 March 2019	Letter dated 15 February 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/159) Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2019/218)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/263)	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Seven Council members, ^d invitee	Resolution 2463 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

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<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8563 26 June 2019	Letter dated 6 June 2019 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/469)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/522)				Resolution 2478 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8584 24 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2019/575)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, ^e all invitees ^f	
S/PV.8638 9 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2019/776)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Seven Council members, ^g all invitees ^h	
S/PV.8692 19 December 2019	Letter dated 24 October 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/842) Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2019/905)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2019/957)	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Six Council members, ⁱ invitee	Resolution 2502 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a Zambia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, who participated in the meeting by videoconference from Johannesburg.

^b The Special Representative, the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the President of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kinshasa.

^c The representative of Afia Mama participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kinshasa.

^d Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Indonesia, South Africa and United States. Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; France (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; and South Africa was represented by its Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

^e The representative of Kuwait spoke twice, once in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and once in his national capacity.

^f The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kinshasa.

^g China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa and United States.

^h The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Wilton Park, United Kingdom.

ⁱ China, France, Indonesia, Poland, South Africa (also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea) and the United States.